

Guidelines for Alabama Professional Soil Classifier Exam

The ALPSC exam is designed to test the applicant's knowledge of basic pedology. Therefore, the exam basics are covered in introduction Soil Morphology, Genesis and Classification courses. The exam emphasizes standard morphological and classification principles, basic soil science, and some aspects of applied pedology. The examination is held from 8am-5pm at Auburn University (Funchess Hall, room 203A) on the scheduled date. The exam is given once per year.

The exam format is predominantly definitions, short answer-narrative, and classification of pedons. The exam is open book, and the examinees are encouraged to bring any reference they feel may be of assistance. Please be advised that all soil classification should be done using the latest Keys to Soil Taxonomy.

Standard references include:

- 1) Boul, Southard, Graham, and McDaniel. 2003. Soil genesis and classification. Fifth Edition. Iowa State University Press.
- 2) Soil Survey Staff. 2003. Keys to Soil Taxonomy. 9th Edition. USDA-NRCS.
- 3) Schoeneberger, P.J., D.A. Wysocki, E.C. Benham, and W.D. Broderson. 2002. Field book for describing and sampling soils (version 2.0). Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, NE.